

26/10/11

Kelburne 5ths 0 v 3 Rottenrow 1sts

Following the demolition of Dunfermline City in the cup, Rottenrow returned to league action with a trip to Bellahouston to face Kelburne, in a replay of the abandoned game from a few weeks before.

Confidence was high going into the game, with a strong squad and the knowledge that we had made a great start in the abandoned game (someone scored, but the record of that has disappeared). It was also the third time in their history that 'Row had played a midweek match under lights, and had won on both previous occasions.

Kelburne, however, started the brighter, and within minutes had forged an opening, with Crampsey just managing to deflect a cross away from the 'burne striker at the back post.

'Row then slowly settled into a rhythm, and it wasn't long before the Kelburne defence was carved open, with Smith sliding in to deflect the opener into the roof of the net.

The pace of the game picked up, and Stallard quickly added a second – he was overcome with joy, and raced to the bench to celebrate with the subs. Ever the opportunist, Dunstone sneaked on as his replacement amid the high fives.

Kelburne also had their moments, and the 'Row defence struggled to cope with the bombardment of aerials. A generous man would suggest the floodlights made it difficult, others would say Mat and Andy kept making an a\*se of it. It seemed Entwistle had finally got to grips with the 'burne tactic, as he confidently collected a ball in his own circle, and equally confidently smashed it into Dunstone's chest, giving away a penalty corner. From the resultant corner, Crampsey made a solid save, and 'Row headed into halftime 2-0 up.

The second half saw 'Row open at a fast pace, with the forwards making strong leads, and Prentice, Dodds and Tait taking it in turns to charge into the 'burne half on the overlap. Prentice and Smith were forming a good partnership on the right, creating a number of chances, including one for Steve Lamont, who reacted brilliantly to a deflection, and was unlucky to see his shot drift wide.

Maidwell was clearly hurting from not having scored, and unleashed a trademark drive from the top of the circle, which the 'burne keeper somehow saved with his facemask.

The 'Row defence were largely untroubled in the second half, and on a rare Kelburne attack, Entwistle stole the ball, and fired upfield to Bowie. Prentice again charged through on the overlap, before playing Bowie back in. Bowie's initial shot was blocked, but Prentice smashed the rebound into the far corner for his first goal for the 'Row.

'Row weren't finished, however, and other chances included the 'burne keeper made another astonishing save with his facemask from a Brewer shot, Bowie unselfishly playing in Brewer for a chance which subsequently earned him the DOTD award, and Gilchrist and Smith having a "Worst Reverse Strike" contest.

All in all, a fairly solid 3-0 win against a team who will be in the mix at the end of the season .

Team: C Crampsey; D Prentice, M Entwistle, A Martin, M Dodds; S Maidwell, M Stallard, A Lamont; S Smith, P Gilchrist, S Lamont. Subs: C Bowie, A Tait, A Dunstone, B Brewer.

Goals: Smith, Stallard, Prentice

MOTM: Fatty Bentwhistle

DOTD: Ben Brewer

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